



**163rd meeting
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
31 October 2023**

**Intervention on behalf of the European Union
and its Member States**

Madam Executive Director, Mister Chair, Excellences, colleagues. Good afternoon.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First I would like to thank the Chair of the CPR for a smooth completion of the resumed 162nd CPR meeting. I share the EU and its MS appreciation for finalising the recommendations on the improvement of the work of the CPR, in line with the outcomes of the 9th Annual Subcommittee of the CPR. The EU is ready to continue working with all CPR members, to implement these recommendations.

And now, I turn to the Executive Director. On behalf of the EU and the Member States, I would like to thank you for another comprehensive report, which provides well-structured, plentiful information on the implementation of UNEP's Programme of work, progress on implementation of resolutions and offers an overview of active UNEP's engagement at regional and global levels.

Allow me to share some reflections in response to your quarterly report. First, the EU and its Member States congratulate UNEP in celebrating successfully the World Environment Day, hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the

Netherlands, and focused on plastic pollution and circular economy. Plastics pollution is one of the most urgent crises the planet is facing, and we appreciate every effort to raise awareness on it. To strengthen this work, we would like to urge all MS to engage constructively at the third session of the INC, that will start next week here in Nairobi.

Second, the EU would like to thank UNEP and especially the Ecosystems Division, for their work in preparing the intergovernmental consultation on the nature based solutions, and for the support provided to the co-chairs from Costa Rica and Nigeria. While your report refers to the start of the consultations, they have been concluded by now, delivering a better understanding of the benefits of the nature based solutions and hopefully contributing to their increased implementation. The EU and the MS look forward to receiving the co-chairs summary of the final global consultations.

The EU and its Member States would also like to share their appreciation for the work of UNEP on sustainable consumption and production. In particular we value the efforts to strengthen the discussion on SCP within the UN system, which should lead to more progress on the implementation of the SDG 12. Given the role of unsustainable consumption and production in driving the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the EU and its MS believe that UNEP could put even more efforts to contribute to the increasing of resource efficiency and to achieving circular economy.

EU and its MS welcome the continued efforts by UNEP to implement the UN reform and to mainstream the environment in the UN Country Teams. We look forward to continue this discussion in the 10th Annual Subcommittee.

Finally the EU commends the continuous efforts of UNEP to support countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts. Assessing environmental damage is necessary in order to protect the civilians from the harmful effects caused by

conflicts or wars, as well as to understand environmental and economic consequences. The work of UNEP in Ukraine will help in creating an effective mechanism on assessing environmental damage, which often has cross-border impacts, to be utilized in other conflicts all over the globe.

Along the same line, the quick mobilization of environmental experts to areas affected by natural disasters is paramount to facilitate a more expedited and informed recovery. We encourage UNEP to continue to engage as appropriate in the recovery works in Syria and other disaster affected areas.

These engagements show the power of UNEP to mobilise the necessary environmental expertise and provide added value in delivering the necessary support to countries in most need.

With these brief reflections, Executive director I would like to thank you and your team for providing us with these regular comprehensive updates.

I conclude my statement and I look forward for our discussion on the UNEA 6.